

all, we all must recognize that over 400 Americans have been killed in Iraq and those numbers are rising. One, two, and now 16 and 17 lives at a time. We do not even know how many Iraqis have died because the Pentagon classifies that information as irrelevant. When we asked Ambassador Bremer at an International Relations Committee hearing how many Iraqis had been killed, he said he did not know because that was not really relevant to reconstruction efforts.

What we are witnessing are the results of a failed and failing foreign policy as a result of the fact that the Bush administration launched a preemptive war that was neither justified nor necessary.

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To persuade many Members of Congress and the public to support this war, the administration apparently manipulated intelligence information and spun a distorted web of deception, and this will not be forgotten. Congress should not be talking about adjournment until we have answered these incredibly important questions about how we got into this mess.

That is why I have introduced House Resolution 410, which states that Congress should not adjourn until we have started an investigation into these questions as called for by the Waxman and the Tauscher resolutions. These questions are absolutely relevant. The American people deserve the answers. The methods by which we got into this war, the poor intelligence, and the unwillingness to work with the United Nations have shaped the current quagmire that we face; and, again, this is not going away.

Furthermore, in its rush to war, the administration completely failed to properly plan for its aftermath. This shortsightedness has cost American, as well as Iraqi, lives and created chaos and insecurity in Iraq. Unilateralism, we have found out, and some of us have known for many years, is not leadership; and unilateralism will not succeed in Iraq, as we are seeing. What we need is an effective transition strategy, effective transition strategy, so that we do not leave a worse disaster in its wake. That strategy must include a clear vision of how and when United States troops will come home and a real plan, a real plan, for Iraqi political and economic success. To achieve such success, we need to abandon what the New York Times has recently called "the miserable United States monopoly in Baghdad."

Although United States unilateralism has gravely damaged our relations with much of the world, we must continue to at least try to internationalize the transition to Iraqi independence. The United Nations should have real political and economic authority in this effort at peacekeeping and rebuilding. The Pentagon is really not the right agency to foster the creation of this new government; the

United Nations is. And, yes, some of us have suggested to the President that Donald Rumsfeld be asked to leave because we believe that he has led this effort in the wrong direction and has not planned adequately for the protection of our young people. So once again we hope that this resolution will come up before we leave.

As a candidate, George Bush, remember, dismissed the concept of nation-building; but as Commander in Chief, he has really mangled it. So we should really let the United Nations fulfill its mission by leading the effort to forge peace, security, and democracy in Iraq.

What should the United States role in Iraq be during this transition? For starters, we should at least recognize that we need to win friends and allies and not make new enemies. Also, I have said before and I will say it again, I believe that our Nation should absolutely pay for the damage that it has caused through its bombing, through its killing; but repairing bombing damage does not mean handing billions of dollars to Bechtel and Halliburton with regard to the no-bid contracts which they are receiving. Iraq's long-term economic development really should be in its own hands just as its sovereignty should be.

Again, as I have said earlier, we are really in a quagmire right now, one of poor planning and poor policy. And it is costing hundreds of American lives and hundreds of billions of dollars. Where in the world will we find the resources for our senior citizens and our children? How are we going to fund Leave No Child Behind, the \$9 billion that we need to put into public education? How are we going to fund affordable housing? Where will we find the resources to ensure our public transportation system and all of those quality-of-life issues that Americans so deserve? Not to mention our veterans. Where do we find the resources to provide their benefits which they so deserve?

So we must find a way out of this. And of course that means, again, for starters that the Iraqi people and their representatives must have a greater role and a real role in shaping their own state, and that means that the United States must shift authority to the U.N., and that means we must adopt new tactics that will enhance U.S. security and Iraqi safety by encouraging peace and hope rather than war and fear.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHUSTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SOLIS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are beginning to see comparisons being made between the U.S. situation in Iraq and the situation we were in in Vietnam. Some are valid; some are not.

One comparison is completely valid and could apply to any conflict. Soldiers get hurt and maimed and die. As a young doctor, I served as a medical officer in the Navy from 1968 to 1970. I worked in California with troops evacuated from Vietnam, and I see those faces when I go up to Walter Reed today.

The issues that we discuss on the floor, who was pushy with the CIA, who knew more than he said, who knew less than he claimed, are important; but they are not important because we want to play some kind of political game of "gotcha." They are important because they are key links in the chain of events that led to more than 130,000 Americans being deployed in Iraq, that led to more than 400 dying, and led to wards filled with boys on Georgia Avenue who do not have arms and legs anymore.

More Americans have died in Iraq in the past 8 months than died in the first 3 years in Vietnam. Regardless of whether this war makes or breaks the Bush Presidency, they are dead.

I did not support the President's decision to go to war. I believe that whatever threat the Hussein regime posed was being effectively contained. I believed and still believe that the presence of large numbers of U.N. inspectors roaming around Iraq was doing a